The Eagleton Institute of Politics explores state and national politics through research, education, and public service, linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice. The Institute focuses attention on how the American political system works, how it changes, and how it might work better.

Eagleton’s faculty, centers and programs specialize in the study of:
- state legislatures and governors;
- public opinion polling and survey research;
- women’s political participation;
- minority and immigrant political behavior;
- campaigns, elections and political parties;
- ethics;
- civic education and political engagement;
- young elected leaders and youth political participation;
- science and politics;
- New Jersey politics.

The Institute includes the Center for American Women and Politics, the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling, and the Center on the American Governor. Eagleton also houses the Clifford P. Case Professorship of Public Affairs, the Arthur J. Holland Program on Ethics in Government, the Louis J. Gambaccini Civic Engagement Series, the Senator Wynona Lipman Chair in Women’s Political Leadership, and the Albert W. Lewitt Endowed Lecture.

For Rutgers undergraduate and graduate students, Eagleton offers a range of education programs including an undergraduate certificate, graduate fellowships, research assistantships and internships, and opportunities to interact with political practitioners.

The Institute convenes conferences and other forums for the general public. In addition, Eagleton undertakes projects to enhance political understanding and involvement, often in collaboration with political leaders, government agencies, the media, non-profit groups, and other academic institutions.
DIRECTORS INvariably insert cheerful, upbeat messages at the beginning of annual reports. Happily, that’s easy for me. Grateful for good students and fine colleagues doing meaningful work, the Eagleton Institute of Politics has completed another active, productive year. Some highlights are captured on these pages.

This year, I want to pay special tribute to a group of people who constitute an invaluable part of our learning and teaching community, furthering Eagleton’s mission and contributing to the Institute’s effectiveness both on campus and off—the political practitioners (a number of them Eagleton alumni) who bolster and enhance the Institute every day. Some appear in this report. Many more helped to make this a rewarding year.

American democracy—a big subject. Its values, principles, aspirations, achievements, misadventures, flaws, and its daily unfoldings are topics that animate teaching and research at the Eagleton Institute of Politics. Almost always, our lens is direct observation and interaction. As an institute of applied politics, Eagleton is committed to connecting students and scholars with the institutions and people making headlines or working behind the scenes in everyday politics. Their world is our laboratory for learning; they help to guide our study of the workings of American democracy from a Rutgers University perch. Playing a vital role as guides and exemplars, practitioner Faculty Associates teach classes at the Institute, enlivening course syllabi with descriptions of their experiences and offering seasoned analyses from the political front lines. Others constitute a steady stream of visitors throughout the academic year. They share inside stories, steer students to internships, and serve as advisors both on and off campus. Every Eagleton program is enriched by their participation.

As is well known, engaging in politics is not for the faint of heart. This past year, events in the political world provided challenges for debate and action, even reasons for concern about the health of our system. Still, while many of us sought evidence of bold, wise leadership and despaired over signs of corruption and cowardice, systemic dysfunction and partisan paralysis, somehow most of the young people in classes on campus and internships in the field envisioned their futures filled with promise. Like bad weather, gloomy headlines could clear for brighter days. A year at Eagleton is like seeing a split screen depicting both forecasts. Both are correct; both are realistic future scenarios.

Foul weather or fair, Eagleton was founded on Florence Eagleton’s admonition to move forward, educating young women and men to participate in building the democracy. It can be done in many ways, but everyone should know it is expected that they find some way to fulfill the civic duty to engage. This lesson is taught by every practitioner who crosses Eagleton’s threshold. Coming from the opposite direction, Herman Melville’s novella Bartleby the Scrivener teaches a similar lesson. Time after time, Bartleby refuses the invitation to engage with life, repeatedly insisting, “I prefer not to.” Fortunately, Eagleton people prefer to step into the day’s weather and confront its challenges.

Ruth B. Mandel

COMING IN 2015-2016

Celebrating Eagleton’s 60th Anniversary

The Eagleton Institute of Politics is proud to mark its 60th anniversary in 2015-2016. Overlapping with a portion of the Rutgers 250th anniversary, it will be a year of celebration! Our anniversary theme is Make It Better — a call to explore how the U.S. political system works, how it changes, and how it can work better. Visit eagleton.rutgers.edu to learn about exciting anniversary events and activities!
THE EAGLETON FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM WAS THE INSTITUTE’s first initiative when it was founded in 1956 in accordance with Florence Eagleton’s goal: “the development of and education for responsible leadership in civic and governmental affairs and the solution of their political problems.” In May 2015, the 58th class of Eagleton Fellows emerged from Wood Lawn eager to do their part in meeting that ambitious challenge.

The Class of 2015 included 27 graduate and professional school students from Rutgers Camden, Newark and New Brunswick campuses seeking degrees in fields as diverse as chemistry, social work, city and regional planning, public health, educational psychology, journalism and media studies, public affairs, landscape architecture, public administration, law, public policy, and political science. (See list on page 4.) The group included Democrats, Republicans and independents with views shaped, in part, by experiences as diverse as: campaign field organizer; police officer; financial analyst; art teacher; youth organizer; media strategist; English teacher in China; school board member; theater director and costume designer; chemistry and physics teacher and ice hockey coach; firefighter; gospel choir singer; casino security supervisor; carpenter and National Forest Service trail coordinator; competitive equestrian show jumper; county party executive director.

In the fall, Fellows enrolled in Legislative Policymaking, taught by Joe Doria, or in the Seminar in American Politics co-taught by Doria and Pete McDonough, a bipartisan team with extensive background in state and national politics and government. In the spring, Fellows spent 15 hours each week immersed in their placements in the legislature or government agencies at the local, county or state level. (See table on page 5.) Throughout the year, Fellows gathered monthly for in-depth discussions about policy, politics and government. Topics included:

- transitioning from local government to federal office (with Mo Butler, Eagleton alumnus and chief of staff to Senator Cory Booker);
- politics and the press (with MSNBC host Steve Kornacki);
- governing and politics in the State of New Jersey (with Governor Christine Todd Whitman and Governor James McGreevey);
- communicating science to politicians and the public (in conjunction with the Eagleton Science and Politics Workshop, see p. 6);
- building healthier communities through health policy (with Mary O’Dowd, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Health);

“The opportunity to engage with so many key figures in government all the way up from three former governors, to senators, to chiefs of staff, commissioners in state government, to legislators, to mayors... just to meet them and be able to ask my own questions was fantastic! It also gives you a more holistic view of government and the interlocking parts that have to connect and move in order for things to be accomplished. The Fellows themselves were so inspiring and really renewed my energy and passion for change! I also enjoyed their diversity in terms of background, focus, academic programs, and political party affiliation. It really made for great conversation and forged connections between us.” — Jessica Crowell, 2015 Fellow
THE EAGLETON UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATES PROGRAM, ESTABLISHED IN 1974, BRINGS TO WOOD Lawn bright, politically-minded Rutgers students with diverse opinions and experiences. Those who enroll in the three-semester certificate program share enthusiasm for new knowledge, varied perspectives, and lively discussions.

Undergraduate Associates explore the real-world practice and processes of American politics, learning from experienced practitioners. Those selected for the program start the second semester of their junior year and continue through their senior year with Eagleton courses specifically designed for the program. In 2014-15, class sessions ranged from exercises in reducing the U.S. budget deficit and political choices in Shakespeare to informal conversations with former governors and learning leadership skills from White House Fellows. Seniors in the program also studied individual New Jersey state boards and commissions and made recommendations to the Governor’s Authorities Unit about whether they should be maintained, eliminated or changed. Associates also completed internships related to government or politics. (See table on page 5.)

The Undergraduate Associates program is offered in collaboration with the Department of Political Science. The majors and minors chosen by the Class of 2015 represented many fields of study in addition to political science, including: Africana studies; American studies; Arabic; business administration; cognitive neuroscience; criminology; economics; English; French; history; international and global studies; mathematics; Middle Eastern studies; organizational leadership; planning and public policy; psychology; public policy; South Asian studies; Spanish; women’s and gender studies. (See list on page 4.)

2015 UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATES BY THE NUMBERS

WHO?
23 Undergraduate Associates in class of 2015
21 Rutgers majors and minors represented
9 members of Rutgers University Student Assembly, including the first African American, first woman and the first Douglass student to be elected president
8 languages spoken other than English
4 members of nationally-ranked Rutgers Debate Team
3 student representatives to Rutgers Board of Trustees
2 volunteer firefighters
1 elected official
1 member of U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

WHERE TO NEXT?
18 plan to work in politics, government, policy or advocacy
6 currently pursuing graduate study
4 working outside NJ in federal government or business positions
2 instructors with Teach for America
1 Fulbright award recipient

"Being able to be around high-achieving students, as well as having access to political practitioners, has been the greatest help to me. It put me in the right mindset and opened a lot of doors for me.” — Enrique Martinez, 2015 Undergraduate Associate
EAGLETON INSTITUTE OF POLITICS  ■  2014-2015

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

CLASS OF 2015

Eagleton Fellows  DEGREE/MAJOR

MICHAEL AFFRUNTI  JD/Law (Nwk)
MICHAEL ARROYO  JD/Law (Nwk)
VINCENT BRUNO  JD/Law (Cam)
JENNIFER BURKHALTER  MLA/Landscape Architecture (NewB)
ALANA BURMAN  MEdPsy/Educational Psychology (NewB)
ELIZABETH CARTER  MCRP/City and Regional Planning (NewB) and JD/Law (Nwk)
JESSICA CROWELL  PhD/Journalism and Media Studies (NewB)
ERIKA DANI  MCRP/City and Regional Planning (NewB)
LINWOOD DONELSON  JD/Law (Cam)
DAPHNEY DUPERVIL  MPH/Public Health (Nwk)
ELIZABETH EHRET  JD/Law (Nwk)
PERRY FARHAT  JD/Law (Cam)
MARK FIDANZA  JD/Law (Cam)
SARAH FLETCHER  JD/Law (Nwk)
SEAN FOLEY  MSW/Social Work (NewB)
COURTNEY JOHNSON  JD/Law (Nwk)
MICHAEL KORNBLAU  JD/Law (Cam)
JUSTIN KOZINN  JD/Law (Cam)
KYLE MORGAN  PhD/Political Science (NewB)
MARKOS PAPADAKIS  PhD/Chemistry (Nwk)
JOSHUA ROSENFELD  MPA/Public Administration (Nwk)
FABIAN RUIZ  JD/Law (Nwk)
ANNELISA STEEBER  MPP/Public Policy (NewB)
JACQUELYN SUAREZ  JD/Law (Cam)
JARED SUSSMAN  MPP/Public Policy (NewB)
CHRISTOPHER WHEELER  PhD/Public Affairs (Cam)
MATTHEW WHITE  JD/Law (Cam)

CAMPUS: Cam: Camden  ■  NewB: New Brunswick  ■  Nwk: Newark

CLASS OF 2015

Eagleton Undergraduate Associates  MAJOR/MINOR

OLUWASEYI AMORIN  Political Science/English, Women’s and Gender Studies
KRISTINE BAFFO  Political Science/Africana Studies
MARILIA WYATT BOYD  Political Science/Public Policy, Organizational Leadership
JESSICA BRAND  American Studies/Political Science, Women’s and Gender Studies
ANTHONY COVINGTON  Political Science/Business Administration
FRANCINE GLASER  Planning and Public Policy/Women’s and Gender Studies
ARTIN HAGHSHENAS  Political Science/International and Global Studies
CHELSEA JESKIE  Political Science, Middle Eastern Studies/Criminology, Arabic
KIRA KAUR  Political Science/Planning and Public Policy
KAJAL KHENY  Political Science/Women’s and Gender Studies, History
RAMAN QUINN MAINGI  Economics, Political Science/Mathematics
ENRIQUE MARTINEZ  Political Science/Planning and Public Policy
RACHEL MOON  Planning and Public Policy/Spanish
PAMELA NAVROT  Cognitive Neuroscience, Psychology, Political Science
JEFFREY NIESZ  History, Political Science
Saira Shakir  Political Science/History
PARAG SHENDE  Political Science, Economics/French
JACOB SHULMAN  Political Science/Economics
DIANELLE SPERO  Political Science, Women’s and Gender Studies/Public Policy
RYAN TASHIMA  Political Science, Planning and Public Policy
PRAMA VERMA  Political Science, Economics/South Asian Studies
EVAN WARSACK  Political Science, Planning and Public Policy/History
SARA WEST  Political Science/Women’s and Gender Studies

Undergraduate Associates celebrated the end of their three-semester program with faculty and staff at the annual Wood Lawn picnic.

Fellows in Maryland Senate chambers
2014-2015 EAGLETON STUDENT PLACEMENTS

- Fellows
- Undergraduate Associates

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Office of the Governor*
Office of the Attorney General+
Department of Agriculture*
Department of Community Affairs*
Department of Environmental Protection*
Department of Health*
Department of Human Services++
Department of the Treasury+
New Jersey General Assembly*
New Jersey State Senate*
New Jersey Office of Legislative Services*
Board of Public Utilities*
Economic Development Authority*
Election Law Enforcement Commission*
Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency*

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia+
Office of U.S. Representative Frank Pallone+
The White House+
U.S. Department of Justice+
U.S. Department of Transportation+

LOCAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Camden County Prosecutor’s Office*
City of Atlantic City*
City of Jersey City++
City of New York*
City of Woodbridge Redevelopment Agency*
Essex County Office of the Public Defender*

POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS

Janice Kovach for Congress+

OTHER PLACEMENTS

CRD Government Relations (DC)+
Impact NJ Government Affairs+
M Public Affairs+
SM Political Finance Consulting+
Message and Media+
Morford Drulis Associates+
National Low Income Housing Coalition (DC)+
New Brunswick Development Corporation+
Rutgers Office of Federal Relations (DC)+
Women’s Political Caucus (DC)+

2014-2015

Classes at Wood Lawn

UNDERGRADUATE CLASSES

A Woman for President?
(Byrne First-Year Seminar)
RUTH B. MANDEL

Can We Really Know What People Think? How Polls Influence Politics
(Byrne First-Year Seminar)
DAVID REDLAWSK

Citizenship and Civic Engagement
(Darien Civic Engagement Project)
ELIZABETH MATTO AND ANDREW MURPHY

Foundations of Political Life
GERALD M. POMPER

Learning from Political Internships
(Undergraduate Associates Seminar)
THOMAS WILSON

Political Campaigning
MICHAEL DUHAIME AND MAGGIE MORAN
WITH RANDI CHMIELEWSKI

Politics and the New Majority
SAYU BHOJWANI

Practice of Politics
(Undergraduate Associates Seminar)
DAVID REDLAWSK

Processes of Politics
(Undergraduate Associates Seminar)
JOHN WEINGART

RU Ready™
(Internship Seminar)
ELIZABETH MATTO

Survey Research Methods
DAVID REDLAWSK

Topics in Political Science
(Darien Civic Engagement Project)
ELIZABETH MATTO

Urban Politics
JOSEPH DORIA

Women and American Politics
SUSAN J. CARROLL

Youth Political Participation Program
(Internship Seminar)
ELIZABETH MATTO

GRADUATE CLASSES

Legislative Policymaking
JOSEPH DORIA

Seminar in American Politics
(Eagleton Fellows Seminar)
PETER MCDONOUGH AND JOSEPH DORIA

Research Design for Dissertations in Women and Politics
KIRA SANBONMATSU

Women and Politics
(Graduate Proseminar)
SUSAN J. CARROLL

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Visiting Associate and adjunct faculty member Tom Wilson led a class discussion with Vermont House Speaker Shap Smith, Jr. during the Undergraduate Associates’ internship course.

NJ Assemblywoman Caroline Casagrande met with students in Professor Ruth B. Mandel’s first-year Byrne seminar, A Woman for President?
Political Campaigning Course

NATIONALLY-KNOWN POLITICAL CAMPAIGN STRATEGISTS MICHAEL DuHaime and Maggie Moran joined forces in Eagleton’s Drawing Room each week during the fall semester, giving undergraduates candid and complex lessons in politics. Since the bipartisan pair began teaching their extremely popular Political Campaigning course in 2009, the list of guest lecturers has read like a who’s who in politics. 2014 highlights included Governor Chris Christie, former Governor Jim McGreevey, Republican Governors Association executive director Phil Cox, Maggie Haberman of Politico, Matt Katz of WNYC radio, Maria Comella (Governor Christie’s deputy communications director), and NJ Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick and Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto.

Drawing on the expert lectures and assigned readings, students crafted their own campaign plans for a select group of competitive local, state, and federal elections. In addition to this exercise in political decision-making, the class was challenged to consider how campaigning has changed over the last two hundred years and what modern campaign dynamics mean for democracy. Instructor Randi Chmielewski aided the students in connecting the practical classroom conversations with academic perspectives drawn from political science literature.

“The campaign plan, as well as the entire class, made me realize just how much goes into a campaign -more than just the field work I usually volunteer doing.”
— Political Campaigning Student

Eagleton Science and Politics Workshop

THE INSTITUTE LAUNCHED A NEW COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE, the Eagleton Science and Politics Workshop (ESPW), in early 2015. The program’s creation was motivated by two potentially complementary realities. First, students with advanced science degrees are facing an increasingly challenging job market, with many finding limited opportunities for traditional academic careers. Second, society faces a real need for more scientists in government. Careers in public service may not be on the radar screen for aspiring scientists and social scientists, who could benefit from knowing more about opportunities in research, government, government relations, and the non-profit sector. Each half-day session enables graduate students and postdocs to explore how science intersects with politics, policymaking, and public discourse to increase their understanding of the role politics and government play in their discipline, and also to broaden their view of possible careers.

The program was conceived in cooperation with neuroscience and cell biology/pediatrics Professor Emanuel DiCicco-Bloom in 2014 after a popular seminar at Eagleton that featured physicist and former Congressman Rush Holt. It was launched with two pilot workshops during the spring 2015 semester.

The inaugural workshop featured a keynote lecture by Dr. Paul Offit of the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and author of Deadly Choices: How the Anti-Vaccine Movement Threatens Us All. His talk on Communicating Science to Politicians and the Public preceded a panel discussion including Dr. Dahlia Sokolov, Democratic staff director for the Research and Technology Subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and Michael Lemonick, a 20-year veteran of Time magazine and current writer-at-large for Climate Central. During the packed Drawing Room session, speakers discussed the challenges involved in accurately communicating scientific evidence and processes within a media environment that thrives on new and controversial stories.

The second workshop, entitled Public Decision Making in
“Connecting politics and science is exactly what I needed to understand my role in public health.”
—Daphney Dupervil, 2015 Eagleton Fellow

Health, Education, and the Environment, featured Thomas J. Carew, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science at NYU, former NJ Health Commissioner Heather Howard, now the director of the State Health Reform Assistance Network and lecturer in public affairs at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School, and NJ Board of Public Utilities Commissioner Upendra Chivukula, an engineer by training with over 15 years of experience in elective office.

The pilot program was supported in part by the Rutgers Interdisciplinary Job Opportunities for Biomedical Scientists (iJOBS) program, funded by a Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training grant from the National Institutes of Health, and the Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Postdoctoral Career Development Program. Campus partners included the Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities and the Departments of Neuroscience and Cell Biology and Pediatrics at the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

2014-2015 Eagleton Aresty Undergraduate Research Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Henry Grabbe</td>
<td>2016 Undergraduate Associate</td>
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<td>Nicholas Hansen</td>
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<td>Aaron Jaslove</td>
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<td>Steven Mercadante</td>
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<td>William Penn (1644-1718): A New Biography / ANDREW MURPHY</td>
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<td>Analee Pattwell</td>
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<td>Gender &amp; Failure: A Media Study about the 2014 Massachusetts Gubernatorial Race / KELLY DITTMAR</td>
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<td>Yvanna Saint-Fort</td>
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<td>African-American Women as an Underrepresented Minority in U.S. Congress / KIRA SANBONMATSUM</td>
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<td>Justin Schulberg</td>
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<td>Prama Verma</td>
<td>2015 Undergraduate Associate</td>
<td>Hillary Rodham Clinton: Dare to Compete / RUTH B. MANDEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evan Warsak</td>
<td>2015 Undergraduate Associate</td>
<td>Center on the American Governor / JOHN WEINGART</td>
</tr>
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Youth Political Participation Program

America’s Youngest Citizens — The last of the Millennials and the vanguard of a new, as yet unlabeled generation — stand apart from their parents and grandparents in numerous ways: more diverse, better educated, and hyper-connected. Their connection to the political process is distinctive; although their voter turnout rates don’t compare to those of previous generations, technologically savvy young adults are finding new ways to express their political voices.

The Youth Political Participation Program (YPPP) encourages and supports the political engagement and learning of today’s young adults and those following in their footsteps. Blending research, public service and education, YPPP programs serve young people locally, on the Rutgers campus, and beyond.

Active citizenship requires a combination of political knowledge, skills, and democratic attitudes. YPPP is motivated by the urgency of conveying these essential ingredients of good citizenship to young people.

For College Students

In partnership with the Rutgers Department of Political Science, YPPP administered the Darien Civic Engagement Project for a third year. An embodiment of Eagleton’s focus on linking study and practice, the Project allows selected students to explore connections between the ideals of American political thought and the realities of American politics – youth political participation in particular. Students consider these linkages through readings, small group discussion with faculty, project-based learning, and “beyond the classroom” experiences via RU Ready™ and RU Voting™.

RU Voting™ remains the “go to” voting resource for Rutgers students, faculty, and administrators with the YPPP website serving as a “one-stop-shop” for local, state, and federal elections, backed up by other campus-wide electronic portals channeling students to these resources. Dedicated to disseminating complete and accurate voter registration and Election Day information, RU Voting™ conducted campus-wide voter registration drives, worked with the chancellors on all campuses to send email blasts directing students to our website, and partnered with the Rutgers University Student Association to offer a free shuttle to polling locations. As always, YPPP students played a central role in these efforts – reaching out to their peers and encouraging their participation.

RU Voting™ also presented programs to engage students in the political process and encourage political learning. YPPP co-hosted the panel discussion “#politics: Redefining Engagement Via Digital Media” at which social media experts from such organizations as Rock the Vote and Amnesty International USA discussed the promise and the challenges involved with connecting young adults to the political process digitally. As part of the “Pizza and Politics” series, YPPP brought former U.S. Senator Alan Simpson into the classroom to discuss the state of politics today and the need for youth involvement.

For High School Students

Through RU Ready™, Rutgers undergraduates reached out to the students of New Brunswick High School (NBHS) with the goal of encouraging and preparing them to be active members of their community. The Rutgers students created interactive workshops to teach the high school students about the strengths of their generation, the many ways in which they can be active citizens, and tools needed to make a difference. At the culminating eighth annual Young Leaders Conference, NBHS students built their skills and heard from Rutgers students and New Brunswick Mayor James Cahill about what it means to be a leader.
EAGLETON’S STATE HOUSE EXPRESS PROGRAM has enhanced students’ understanding and appreciation for New Jersey’s political process for more than a decade. Schools throughout the state apply to the program to take secondary school students to the New Jersey State House, with grants funded by the New Jersey Legislature in collaboration with the Office of Legislative Services (OLS). This year, 17 high schools, 34 middle schools and one combined middle/high school from 19 of the state’s 21 counties brought a total of 2,421 students to Trenton to learn firsthand how state government works.

This year, new political learning materials and activities not only enriched the State House Express experience for students, but also supported teachers in meeting the requirements of the Common Core. The New Jersey School Boards Association journal, School Leader, published an article describing the effort, co-authored by YPPP director Dr. Elizabeth Mattio and Sarah Schmidt of OLS. In close partnership with OLS and a team of teachers, Eagleton redesigned the State House Express webpage to include more resources for teachers, provided schools “document-based questions” related to the “Make-a-Law!” simulation offered through the program, and created a packet of activities to prepare students for their visit to the State House and to follow up afterward. Eagleton looks forward to bringing this political learning experience to New Jersey’s young people for years to come.

The tour continues to win high praise, with one teacher stating, “The Express tour and guide were great. The students really learned a lot and I felt it was educational and well paced.”
The Center on the American Governor (CAG) has become an increasingly valued resource for information and perspectives about the office of the governor and some of the men and women who have won it in New Jersey and across the country. Students and scholars, political and policy analysts, and the general public find easily accessible written and video content at the Center’s website, governors.rutgers.edu. This year the Center was also contacted by reporters from around the country seeking perspective on a variety of gubernatorial matters, with questions about governors seeking the presidency at the top of the list.

The Center’s New Jersey wing offers vibrant archives on the four governors who served the state in the last quarter of the 20th century – Brendan Byrne, Tom Kean, Jim Florio and Christie Whitman. This year the Center convened forums on urban economic development under Governor Florio and health and human services policies under Governor Whitman. Video recordings and transcripts from both discussions, as well as from interviews with key individuals from each administration, are available on the CAG site. Additionally, in December the Center hosted a book signing to celebrate the release of a biography of Governor Byrne, The Man Who Couldn’t Be Bought, by Don Linky (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2014).

With governors prominent among the 2016 presidential contenders, the Center commissioned an in-depth article analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of governors as presidential candidates, drawing on examples of governors who have aspired to national office. Written by journalists Jill Lawrence and Walter Shapiro, “Governors and the Presidency: How They Campaign, How They Govern,” was highlighted in Lawrence’s column in US News and World Report, with the full article published on the CAG website.

A second piece commissioned by CAG this year is examining how selected governors dealt with disasters and emergencies. Bill Leighty, a former chief of staff to two Virginia governors, collected and analyzed information about “Governors, Natural Disasters and the Unexpected.” His behind-the-scenes look at gubernatorial leadership in times of crisis is exploring responses to crises ranging from hurricanes to shootings, identifying lessons from those events that could enhance planning for unexpected occurrences in any state.

In addition to its own substantive work, the Center strives to promote greater academic attention to state executive leadership. This year, the small grants CAG awarded in 2012 and 2013 to promote academically-based research on governors bore fruit as the 21 scholars who were awarded a total of 16 grants completed their projects. Many of the CAG-sponsored projects have already resulted in publications or will soon. Most notably, The American Governor: Power, Constraint, and Leadership in The States, a scholarly volume edited by David Redlawsk, professor of political science and director of Eagleton’s Center for Public Interest Polling, was published by Palgrave in 2015. The volume includes seven chapters by grantees, with three additional chapters by current or former Eagleton Institute faculty/staff who have worked with CAG.

During the year, two gatherings focused on academic research connected with CAG. In September 2014, a group of the grantees initiated a “Conference on State Political Institutions and the Executive Branch” in Washington, DC as a pre-event for the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association. In June 2015, “Governors: Disasters, Presidential Politics,” a CAG symposium held at Eagleton, previewed the commissioned articles by Leighty and Shapiro and Lawrence. In addition, MSNBC host Steve Kornacki offered remarks and engaged in discussion with the audience about themes from a book he is writing about how the politics of the 1990s have shaped subsequent events.
Bhojwani opened a special session of the class to the public for a conversation featuring guest speakers Julissa Gutierrrez of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund and Glenn Magpantay from the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF). During the session, titled Asian and Latino 2014 Electoral Participation, Gutierrrez described the work NALEO has done to encourage political participation in the Latino community, particularly targeting what she described as “The Great Unengaged” — unregistered Latinos and those who are registered but don’t vote regularly. Magpantay noted that exit poll data indicates that ethnicity trumps party in voting decisions for many Asian Americans. Asian voters will often cross party lines to vote for a candidate with whom they identify ethnically, including crossing ethnic lines to support Latino candidates. Magpantay also emphasized the importance of minority candidates having expertise in campaign operations and the need for the U.S. elections apparatus to adapt to an increasingly diverse population.

During the spring 2015 semester, EPID collaborated with the Rutgers Schools of Law (Newark and Camden) to host two programs to explore the intersections of law, politics, and immigration policy:

- Rachel B. Tiven, executive director of Immigrant Justice Corps (IJC), described a series of migration trends and legislative responses that contributed to what she described as a crisis in legal representation for immigrants in the United States today. Tiven noted that high-quality legal services are in short supply in many areas of the country and that legal services make a real difference for immigrants — particularly in deportation proceeding outcomes. To address this crisis, IJC has created a new service model that provides two-year fellowships for recent law school and college graduates. IJC Fellows work with established non-profit legal service providers and community organizations to meet the legal service needs of low-income immigrants in the New York City area. Tiven spoke candidly about the challenges and opportunities that her new organization faces, including comments on the politics of recent legislative reform attempts.

- Former Immigration and Naturalization Service commissioner Doris Meissner offered a clear and cogent overview of the history and current status of U.S. immigration policy, highlighting the ways in which political and economic changes over time have affected laws and attitudes. She outlined a set of policy responses she believes would be broadly acceptable, including legislation to address enforcement at the borders, opportunities for immigration to meet labor market needs, and earned legal status for undocumented immigrants currently in the country. She also explained how political forces have militated against consensus and where there may be room for movement in the future.
Election 2016 is just ahead, with the presidential race already in high gear. Over the last year, the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) has been strengthening its resources in anticipation of heavy interest in women’s roles as the contests unfold.

CAWP’s redesigned website provides users with greatly enhanced access to a rich store of current and historical information. Over more than four decades, the Center has not only conducted groundbreaking research on women in politics, but has gathered a tremendous amount of data about women as elected officials, candidates and voters. CAWP’s varied constituencies – including scholars, students, teachers, journalists, officeholders and activists – rely upon this wealth of knowledge. The new site, designed to serve a variety of users and purposes, provides simple navigation, interactive features, timely infographics, social media synchronization, and searchable datasets. Dynamic maps showcase patterns and clarify context.

In an election cycle when, for the first time, women are candidates for both major party presidential nominations, the Center has joined with the Barbara Lee Family Foundation to create Presidential Gender Watch 2016. This nonpartisan initiative is tracking, analyzing and illuminating gender dynamics in election 2016. It draws on the research and expertise of both organizations, as well as other experts, to further public understanding of how gender influences candidate strategy, voter engagement and expectations, media coverage, and electoral outcomes in the race for the nation’s highest executive office. At the same time, the Center maintains Election Watch, tracking and counting women candidates for federal, statewide and state legislative offices.

Even as the Center focuses on upcoming elections, new research has begun to extend CAWP’s understanding of the impact of women in public office, specifically in Congress. With support from the Hunt Alternatives Fund, the new study, Women Representing in an Era of Party Polarization, will ask how women in Congress, a minority within both parties, attempt to have a meaningful impact on public policy and provide effective representation in an institutional and political environment characterized by gridlock and party polarization. The research will employ interviews with women in the U.S. House and Senate, key staff members, lobbyists for women’s and other interest groups, and congressional leaders.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF PIONEERS, INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP

Inspired by the potential to make an ongoing difference in the lives of women, several friends of CAWP have established endowed Legacy Funds at CAWP this year. Through gifts, bequests, and fundraising, these funds are created with a minimum of $100,000. Each is designed to fit the donor’s resources and to foster the work that matters most to her. Donors initiated six new Legacy Funds this year, joining the Phyllis Kornicker and Susan N. Wilson Legacy Funds.

CWP Founders Fund
The Founders Fund honors the enduring legacy of Rutgers Professor Ruth B. Mandel and Ida F.S. Schmertz, whose collaborative vision and leadership launched the Center in 1971. Mandel led the Center until 1995 and is now director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics. After leaving CAWP, Schmertz held high-level leadership positions in New York State government and at American Express. She is the founding board chair and a current board member of the Romanian American Foundation. Mandel and Schmertz remain close friends and believers in CAWP’s mission.

Barbara J. Callaway Endowed Fellowship
Professor Emerita Barbara Callaway is a founder of the women and politics field in the Rutgers Department of Political Science and an early pioneer in studying gender and politics, renowned for her studies of women in Nigeria and West Africa. The Fellowship Fund she established will support political science graduate students specializing in women and politics as they conduct research at CAWP.

Ethel Klein Legacy Fund
Dr. Ethel Klein, author and former Harvard University and Columbia University professor, is a longtime campaign strategist and pollster. She is the author of several books, including Gender Politics. In keeping with her commitment to connecting scholarship to the practice of politics, proceeds from her Fund will support the work of graduate students at CAWP.

Gilda M. Morales Legacy Fund
Gilda Morales is CAWP’s longtime project manager of information services, founding member of Latinas United for Political Empowerment (LUPE), and current member of the Piscataway Township Zoning Board of Adjustments. Her Fund proceeds will help build CAWP’s information services.

Joanne H. Rajoppi Legacy Fund
Union County Clerk, historian and published author Joanne Rajoppi has served as Union County Freeholder, mayor of Springfield, NJ, Springfield Township Committeewoman and school board member. She is the author of Women in Office: Getting There and Staying There. Her Fund will support CAWP’s overall mission.

Loretta Weinberg Legacy Fund
New Jersey’s Senate Majority Leader, Loretta Weinberg, wants her legacy to be “a whole generation of troublemakers” following her footsteps into politics. Weinberg, elected to the State Senate in 2005 after 14 years in the Assembly, recently celebrated her 80th birthday by inviting friends to contribute to an endowed Legacy Fund in her name at CAWP to engage and inspire more women to participate in politics and government.
NEW Leadership™

Shirley Genty-Vogt received the Hazel Frank Gluck Award, which recognizes a NEW Leadership™ NJ alumna who has used knowledge and experience gained from the program to inspire others and make a difference. The award was presented at the NEW Leadership™ NJ keynote dinner preceding the talk by Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-NY). The 33 students in this year’s NEW Leadership™ class also completed an action project on PARCC testing in New Jersey schools, toured Trenton and met state leaders, and learned from team activities, speakers, and conversations with faculty-in-residence Jeanette Hoffman, senior vice president, Capital Impact Group; Ginger Gold Schnitzer, director, government relations, New Jersey Education Association; and Rebecca Williams, councilwoman, City of Plainfield. NEW Leadership™ NJ is the flagship program and model for 20 partner programs across the country in the NEW Leadership™ Development Network.

Ready to Run®

“Ready to Run was worth attending because the political process is attainable to all, not just a select few.” So said one of 150 women at Ready to Run® NJ in March. After Diversity Initiative sessions focused on challenges and opportunities for women of color, participants took in workshops and plenaries focused on the nuts and bolts of campaigns and the quirks of running in the Garden State. Experts explained what experience and research reveal about women’s candidacies and provided valuable tools for fundraising, dealing with political parties, and “conquering the camera” to work with the media. Ready to Run® NJ is the model for 18 partners around the nation in the Ready to Run® National Training Network.

Book: Navigating Gendered Terrain

Kelly Dittmar, CAWP scholar and assistant professor of political science at Rutgers-Camden, authored Navigating Gendered Terrain: Stereotypes and Strategy in Political Campaigns (Temple University Press, 2015). Dittmar addresses how gender is used to shape campaigns by influencing insider decisions about effective messages, images, and tactics within party and political contexts.
THE EAGLETON CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST polling (ECPIP) provides high-quality information on public policy and political issues in New Jersey within the context of the University’s educational mission. It is the home of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll, the country’s oldest statewide academic poll, which has been keeping New Jersey and the nation informed on public opinion in the Garden State since 1971. To support and further its public mission, the Center also carries out projects for government agencies and non-profit organizations.

Up to 250 students work with ECPIP and the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll each year, with many staffing the call center, conducting thousands of telephone interviews. Others intern with ECPIP, where they may work on public relations and social media strategies, help with data analysis, or research best practices in the ever-changing world of survey research. ECPIP also employs Rutgers graduate students as call center supervisors, data analysts, and providers of guidance to undergraduate staff.

Between polling on Gov. Chris Christie and all things related to New Jersey politics, the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll received more than 300 media hits during the 2014-2015 academic year. Coverage included attention from respected statewide (The Star-Ledger, NJ.com, News 12 New Jersey) and national media (The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Associated Press, The Washington Post, The Huffington Post, CNN, CBS, NBC, and ABC). Results have been covered in print, online, on social media, and on the air and cited by top journalists and leading political figures.

With shrinking profits, the closing of five casinos, and layoffs the new norm, Atlantic City has seen increasingly dark times; 63 percent of state residents, asked about the resort town’s future, said its best days were behind it. The same number said gambling is the town’s only defining feature and has benefited the casino-hotels instead of the people living there, echoing an old perspective; even in the early casino boom years, a 1982 Eagleton Poll found just 30 percent of respondents thought gambling had benefited local residents. In-depth polling on Atlantic City during the 2014-2015 academic year also revealed fewer people planning trips there in the future, more gamblers turning to casinos outside the state, and skepticism toward sports betting and online gambling.

ECPIP director David Redlawsk co-authored (with Kyle Mattes of the University of Iowa) The Positive Case for Negative Campaigning (University of Chicago Press, 2014), countering the belief that Americans hate negativity in political advertising. The authors show that not only is negative advertising accepted, but it can convey valuable information that might otherwise not be revealed.
Despite an improving economy this past year, 60 percent of New Jersey voters said in April 2015 that the Garden State is on the wrong track – the highest dissatisfaction seen since October 2009, shortly before Governor Jon Corzine was defeated for re-election by Chris Christie. Just 30 percent said the state was headed in the right direction – a 10-point drop from December 2014 and less than half of the quarter-century high of 61 percent in June 2013. Voters’ views on the direction of New Jersey as a whole has not been generally positive since January 2014, but the level of dissatisfaction reached this past spring had rarely been seen before in the past two and a half decades. Partisans of all stripes and residents across all regions grew equally negative about the state of their state.

As state lawmakers struggle to return the virtually bankrupt Transportation Trust Fund to solvency, New Jerseyans were not yet ready to solve the problem with an increase in the gas tax. When polled in February 2015, 54 percent of residents opposed a gas tax hike, while 42 supported one, results virtually unchanged from December 2014. Providing residents with information about New Jersey’s gas tax – that it’s the third lowest in the nation and has not been raised in twenty years – had some effect in increasing support, specifically among Republicans and men. Nevertheless, New Jerseyans do not see a huge problem with the quality of New Jersey roads and bridges. Half say that state roads – excluding the Turnpike and Garden State Parkway, which are funded by tolls – are in either good or excellent shape; another 38 percent see state roads as in fair condition, and just 11 percent think they are in poor shape. Opinions on local roads are more negative, however: 4 percent say they are excellent, 29 percent call them good, 36 percent say fair, and 31 percent, poor.

In fall 2014, the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling partnered with the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School for the first ever Rutgers-Eagleton Public Health Series (REPHS), resulting in four releases. The REPHS polled New Jerseyans on a wide range of public health and safety issues, asking questions about their behaviors and habits regarding driving, poison control, home safety devices, preventative health measures, and lifesaving techniques. Among the findings: concerns about dangerous driving activities like reading and cell phone use were almost universal among New Jersey residents, though a solid number still admitted to engaging in these risky behaviors themselves; utilizing the state’s poison control center is divided along socioeconomic lines; 65 percent of residents have all three key home safety devices (fire extinguisher, carbon monoxide detector, and smoke detector) in their homes; and half or more of residents are trained in CPR and Heimlich maneuver techniques.

Since 2013, the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll has been measuring Gov. Christie’s job approval in several specific issue areas – the economy, taxes, the state budget, education, crime, the state pension fund, and Hurricane Sandy recovery. Significant declines in approval have been evident in many of these areas, most notably in assessments of the job the Governor has done on Superstorm Sandy recovery. Once recognized by almost all residents as the governor’s crowning achievement, Gov. Christie’s job approval with regard to Sandy recovery dropped to 48 percent in April 2015, far below his April 2013 peak of 87 percent, while 44 percent disapproved. The governor also reached new lows on taxes (26 percent approval), the state budget (28 percent approval), and the economy and jobs (31 percent approval).

ECPIP is unique even among academic survey centers in that its core staff is made up almost entirely of students. In addition to the more than 200 students who worked in ECPIP’s call center as telephone survey interviewers and supervisors, 18 students performed most of ECPIP’s day-to-day essential operations this year. ECPIP’s burgeoning internship program reaches across departments and schools at Rutgers to recruit research assistants, data analysts, social media and public relations specialists, data visualization and graphic representation artists, polling archivists, and website designers. In 2014-2015, 15 undergraduate students and three graduate students played integral roles in analyzing poll results and drafting press releases, articles, reports, and numerous conference presentations. ECPIP’s student staff members have shared their work at Rutgers’ Aresty Research Center’s Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, at the annual meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association and the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), at a Young Scholars Evening for the New York AAPOR affiliate, and in a student paper competition sponsored by the Pennsylvania-New Jersey AAPOR affiliate, and have won awards for their research. Student staff have also obtained prestigious internships with NORC at the University of Chicago (a prominent survey research organization) and EMILY’s List and pursued graduate studies at the London School of Economics and Johns Hopkins University.
Named Lectures

ARThUR J. HOLLAND PROGRAM ON ETHICs IN GOVERNMENT

Ethics, Reporters, and I Thought That Was Off The Record
"Ethics, Reporters, and I Thought That Was Off The Record" was the provocative title of the Arthur J. Holland Program session Eagleton convened at the NJ League of Municipalities annual conference in Atlantic City. Pete McDonough, vice president for external affairs at Rutgers, and Tom Moran of The Star-Ledger reflected on their interactions from when Moran was a State House reporter and McDonough was Governor Christine Todd Whitman’s communications director. Their advice, echoed by panelist and municipal attorney William J. Kears, Jr., was always to tell the truth and to make an explicit agreement about the ground rules at the start of any interview. Camden Mayor Dana Redd presided over the program, moderated by Eagleton’s associate director, John Weingart and attended by approximately 300 local officials.

Ethics: When Government and Medicine Collide – From the Right to Die to Ebola
Noted medical ethicist Dr. Arthur Caplan, the Drs. William F. and Virginia Connolly Mitty Professor and founding director of the Division of Medical Ethics in NYU Langone Medical Center’s Department of Population Health, spoke under the auspices of the Arthur J. Holland Program. He presented the story of Josh Hardy, a child with a rare and aggressive form of kidney cancer whose parents sought compassionate use of a not-yet-approved medication in a last-ditch attempt to save his life. The example illustrated several key issues about the complex ethical choices that confront doctors, pharmaceutical companies, and patients and their families in various situations, including recent controversies surrounding Ebola and mandatory vaccination. Caplan expanded on the Hardy story to discuss the pros and cons of various legal approaches, as well as issues of cost and compassion. As a polio survivor, Caplan has strong feelings about the public debates regarding vaccinations; while he would allow for some exemptions, he supports mandated vaccination in most cases.

Washington, Wall Street, and the Public Interest: What I Learned in the U.S. Senate
Former Senator Ted Kaufman spoke about legislative ethics as they relate to Wall Street Reform, another presentation in the Arthur J. Holland Program. Kaufman represented Delaware from 2009-2010 in the U.S. Senate, where he was deeply involved in the Dodd Frank Wall Street reform. He spoke about the current state of gridlock in Washington, citing an increased homogeneity in parties and districts. Historically citizens cast their votes based on the candidate; now they vote almost exclusively based on party and ideology. The extreme and real ideological differences between the parties have caused an impasse unlike any experienced in previous years.

THE SENATOR WYNONA LIPMAN CHAIR IN WOMEN’S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP
Why I Want You to Tell Me More: On Bringing Outsiders In
Michel Martin of National Public Radio gave the Lipman lecture, invoking “the Ancestors” for inspiration. Her talk paid homage to Senator Lipman before turning to an analysis of the evolving electorate and the fault lines that divide the nation, both between and within groups. On her former radio program, “Tell Me More,” and now in her new role at NPR, Martin aims to create places to talk about changing lifestyles, values and experiences. Martin would like all Americans to have real conversations that involve as much listening as talking, recognizing that this is hard work and remembering the pioneers who went before.
LOUIS J. GAMBACCINI CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SERIES
#politics: Redefining Engagement via Digital Media
In a program co-sponsored by Eagleton’s Youth Political Participation Program and the Rutgers School of Communication and Information (SCI), four panelists, moderated by Melissa Aronczyk, assistant professor in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at SCI, discussed the opportunities and challenges involved in using digital media to connect people and politics. They described their varied routes to working in digital media and highlighted opportunities for empowerment through targeted use of new media. The panelists were: Dave Cole (a graduate of Eagleton’s Undergraduate Associates program), former senior advisor to the White House chief information officer and deputy director of new media; Cammie Croft, deputy executive director of digital and strategic communications, Amnesty International USA; Sara Tabatabaie, special projects manager, Rock the Vote; and Eric Schmeltzer, communications and outreach consultant for the new app, Countable.

ALBERT W. LEWITT ENDOWED LECTURE
A Conversation with Brian Lamb
Amidst an audience of C-SPAN fans, the network’s founder and former CEO outlined his own background and described how C-SPAN came into existence, relating the confluence of events and political forces that allowed it to take root and make TV stars out of congressional leaders. He explained why C-SPAN offers separate partisan call-in lines and how the network covers out-of-town stories without a huge staff. Because C-SPAN operated on a shoestring, the network made deals with others, including the National Press Club and the Close Up Foundation, that enriched its programming. An avid reader of non-fiction, Lamb talked about his years of interviewing authors as the host of “Booknotes.” He remains skeptical about journalists hobnobbing with their subjects in settings such as the Gridiron Club and the White House Correspondents Dinner. In addition to the public conversation with Institute director Ruth B. Mandel, Lamb met with a group of Eagleton students for a conversation led by Professor David Greenberg, an Eagleton faculty associate.

Writing Politics

Inside Newark: Decline, Rebellion, and the Search for Transformation
Dr. Robert Curvin spoke to a capacity audience about his recent book, Inside Newark: Decline, Rebellion, and the Search for Transformation (Rutgers Press, 2014). He described the work as a hybrid, part scholarly research and part memoir. Beginning his lecture by looking back at his youth in the Newark area, Curvin noted that while he grew up a few blocks from the city border in Belleville, “Newark was in my DNA.” His analysis of Newark’s political landscape and leadership since the 1960’s included colorful stories about former mayors Hugh Addonizio (1962-1970), Ken Gibson (1970-1986), Sharpe James (1986-2006), and Cory Booker (2006-2013) as well as key powerbrokers such as Steve Adubato, Sr. Curvin’s remarks painted a complex picture of the city’s past political leadership and present challenges.

Navigating Gendered Terrain: Stereotypes and Strategy in Political Campaigns
Kelly Dittmar, assistant professor of political science at Rutgers-Camden and a scholar at Eagleton’s Center for American Women and Politics, spoke about themes highlighted in her book (Temple University Press, 2015). Dittmar described how she employed a national survey of political consultants and a series of interviews with candidates and practitioners to discover how candidates and campaign professionals navigate the gendered political landscape and in what ways campaigns may reinforce or disrupt existing gender dynamics. She used campaign advertisements to illustrate some of the approaches women candidates take to distinctive challenges they face, such as building credibility or demonstrating toughness.

Uncertainty and the Philosophy of Climate Change
Martin Bunzl, a professor in the Rutgers Department of Philosophy and former director for the Rutgers Initiative on Climate and Social Policy, discussed his new book, Uncertainty and the Philosophy of Climate Change (Routledge, 2015) during a December event. Drawing on both the philosophy of science and ethics, he examined assumptions about the value of present costs versus future benefits while looking at climate policy in Washington, Beijing, London, Trenton, and Sacramento.
Writing Politics

The Positive Case for Negative Campaigning
David Redlawsk, director of Eagleton’s Center for Public Interest Polling and the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll, spoke about the book he co-authored with Kyle Mattes (University of Chicago Press, 2014). Redlawsk explained what is meant by negative campaigning and outlined the reasons that it is effective and desirable; he believes negative ads are most likely to be truthful and well documented, and they convey useful information that might otherwise not be revealed. He described studies using games that have shown why candidates would choose negative strategies, which seem to generate the greatest payoff.

The Man Who Couldn’t Be Bought
Eagleton hosted a book signing event for the release of Don Linky’s biography of Governor Brendan Byrne (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2014). John Weingart, director of the Institute’s Center on the American Governor, opened the program with video clips from the Brendan Byrne archive. The audience enjoyed the television ads for the Governor’s 1973 and 1977 political campaigns. Linky shared highlights from the book, which chronicles Byrne’s legacy as the Governor of New Jersey from 1974 – 1981.

Talking Politics

The Future of the Republican Party:
An Evening with Steve Schmidt
Setting a context for the 2014 and 2016 elections, GOP campaign strategist Schmidt (third from right), a key figure in the 2008 McCain presidential campaign, outlined the history of the Republican party and the demographic challenges it faces. He suggested that the party as it stands can win Congress but would have difficulty winning the presidency. In contrast to President Reagan’s search for any bit of common ground, current Republicans demand purity and reject compromise. He believes his party needs rebranding and courage to stand up against its extremists. Schmidt worries that President Obama’s word has been devalued among allies, and he notes the collapse of optimism and trust in American institutions, with demagogues always ready to step in. Still, he remains optimistic about the nation and sees ways to attach optimism to conservatism, talking about how to expand the economy and get the country moving. He noted that Americans are a disputatious people but have always been able to work through difficult issues; he looks forward to a new generation that will understand the limitless possibilities of leadership. Schmidt’s visit was supported by a grant from the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation.

The Morning After: Grading the Midterm Elections
For the traditional post-election post-mortem, Eagleton Institute’s associate director, John Weingart, moderated a panel including Ross Baker, distinguished professor, Department of Political Science, Rutgers University; Gail Gordon, Republican fundraiser and attorney, Florio Perrucci Steinhardt & Fader (right); Julie Roginsky, Democratic political consultant and Fox News contributor (left); and Jonathan Tamari, Washington correspondent, The Philadelphia Inquirer. Panelists reviewed explanations and implications of the Republican victories. Roginsky reminded students that they are affected by every piece of legislation, warning, “Don’t kid yourself that you’re not.”
Politics as Contact Sport: The Fight for Your Future
Former U.S. Senator Alan Simpson (R-WY), co-chair of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, which proposed significant reforms in the federal budget, spoke to students at Eagleton and in Professor Ross Baker’s American Government course as well as to members of the community. Simpson described some of the most serious ramifications of failure to deal with the national fiscal crisis, speaking with his customary blend of extensive illustrative data and colorful humor. Among the targets of his critiques were the AARP and the “greed of senior citizens,” Social Security, the defense budget, health care costs, veterans, the Tea Party, and members of Congress who reflexively bow down to interest groups. He lamented the lack of courage, comity and independent thinking in Congress.

Governors: Disasters, Presidential Politics
A symposium presented by Eagleton’s Center on the American Governor (CAG) showcased writing projects commissioned by CAG to highlight varied roles played by state chief executives. Former Virginia gubernatorial chief of staff Bill Leighty (right) discussed his examination of “Governors, Natural Disasters and the Unexpected: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Gubernatorial Leadership in Times of Crisis,” highlighting lessons learned through experience with disasters. Journalists Walter Shapiro and Jill Lawrence spoke about “Governors and the Presidency: How They Campaign, How They Govern,” the topic of their article. Steve Kornacki, host of MSNBC’s Up with Steve Kornacki, outlined themes from a book he is writing about how the politics of the 1990s have shaped subsequent developments.

Jersey Journalists: Local News, Political Coverage, and the Changing Media Landscape
In a conversation moderated by 2014 Eagleton Fellow Steven Galante, himself a journalist, panelists whose experience encompasses new media platforms discussed different approaches to disseminating news. Justin Auciello, the founder of the online Jersey Shore Hurricane News, Debbie Galant, director of New Jersey News Commons (based at Montclair State University), and John Mooney, founder of NJ Spotlight, talked about their missions, how they build their audiences, and how they use social media. They assessed the meaning and value of concepts such as objectivity, balance, opinion and analysis; for them, even ideas such as “news” and “truth” are open to debate in the new climate.

The Next Mission: Politics and Public Service
A program in honor of Veterans Day about veterans seeking public office brought together Elisa Basnight, director of the Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Women Veterans; Seth Lynn, director of the Center for Second Service at George Washington University; and New Jersey State Senator Samuel Thompson, an Army veteran. The panel, moderated by Center for American Women and Politics director Debbie Walsh, discussed how veterans might serve their country yet again by running for public office. They agreed that the strengths developed in the military make veterans great candidates. Thompson highlighted skills and traits valuable both to service members and officeholders: dedication, commitment, focus on mission, loyalty, and organization. This program was co-hosted by the Eagleton Institute of Politics, its Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP), and the Rutgers Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services.
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Committee to Elect M. Teresa Ruiz
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Martin and Naomi Cramer
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John and Ann Holt Attended a Research Presentation by Jessica Brand, the first recipient of the Holt Award for Applied Research in American Politics. The Holts established the award at Eagleton to support and encourage undergraduate research that pursues a balanced approach to studying politics. Research projects must examine at least two sides of an issue, seeking understanding of varied partisan analyses. Jessica’s research and subsequent thesis explored contemporary interpretations of the Declaration of Independence.

Karen R. Tucker
Suzanne M. Underwald
Susan C. Varga
Deborah L. Garay Veach and James Veach
Noemi Velazquez
Lauren M. Vincelli
Victor S. Vitale
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AN ALUMNA SUCCESS STORY
In November, the Institute welcomed back a 1977 Eagleton Fellow who spent the evening with students, faculty, and alumni sharing stories of her unique and highly successful professional journey. Alumna Nancy Floyd is the founder and managing director of Nth Power, a San Francisco-based venture capital firm that focuses exclusively on investments in new energy technology. Through an open conversation with Institute director Ruth B. Mandel, Floyd traced her career from political science student to venture capitalist. She explained that early in her career she learned that she was very entrepreneurial, which ultimately led her into the business world. Her background in politics and policy gave her a competitive edge in her emerging and highly technical field of energy. Floyd stressed the critical importance of management and leadership skills in all sectors, public and private; she sees business success as built on evaluating people and executing a vision.

AMERICAN FLAG PRESENTATION
Wilfredo Rodriguez, an Eagleton Fellow from the class of 2009 and a 2010 graduate of the Rutgers School of Social Work, is a reserve chaplain in the U.S. Navy. Memories, messages and care packages from Eagleton helped to sustain him while he served in Afghanistan. As a gesture of gratitude, Rodriguez presented to Institute director Ruth B. Mandel an American flag flown over the NATO Multinational Medical Unit at Kandahar Airfield while he was serving there. Both Rodriguez and Mandel made brief remarks during the presentation.

ALUMNI PANEL: CAREERS IN POLITICS
Inaugurating what is slated to become an annual event, the Institute welcomed four alumni who spoke about their careers in politics. Moderated by adjunct faculty member Tom Wilson, the panel included: Christopher J. Paladino (’82 Undergraduate Associate), president of New Brunswick Development Corporation; Kristin Phillips-Hill (’88 Undergraduate Associate, ’89 Fellow), then State Representative-Elect in Pennsylvania’s 93rd District; Christine A. Stearns (’96 Fellow), then vice president of health and legal affairs, New Jersey Business and Industry Association; and Abdur R. Yasin (’13 Fellow), fire captain and deputy OEM coordinator, Township of West Orange.

ALUMNI GET-TOGETHER
U.S. Navy Chaplain Wilfredo Rodriguez (’09 Fellow) presented director Ruth B. Mandel a flag flown in Eagleton’s honor over the NATO Multinational Medical Unit in Kandahar, Afghanistan while he was stationed there in 2014 as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Chris Lenart (former Eagleton staff) and Gina Marcello (’02 Fellow) shared memories at the fall Alumni Get Together.

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2015 – 2016

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Board of Governors Professor of Politics;
Senior Scholar, CAWP

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Spotlight videos feature selected Eagleton faculty, staff, students and alumni as part of a broad effort to help students, alumni, and friends get to know the people and projects that are Eagleton. View the series at eagleton.rutgers.edu and check back regularly for additions.

Event Videos

Did you miss an Eagleton event? Recordings of many are available online. YouTube.com/EagletonInstitute to watch our programs and interviews. Share, comment, and help us promote civil discourse about politics!